



General Assembly

**Amendment**

**February Session, 2022**

LCO No. **5872**



Offered by:

SEN. COHEN, 12<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. GRESKO, 121<sup>st</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. **238**

File No. 350

Cal. No. 248

(As Amended)

**"AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN ENVIRONMENT  
RELATED STATUTES."**

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1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than August 1,  
4 2022, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
5 develop, finalize and publish on the Department of Energy and  
6 Environmental Protection's Internet web site a hazardous tree  
7 mitigation policy that shall apply to the designation, removal and  
8 mitigation of trees located in state parks and campgrounds that are  
9 determined to be hazardous by the Department of Energy and  
10 Environmental Protection. Such policy shall include criteria for the  
11 designation of a tree as hazardous by the department and the scope of  
12 applicability for procedures for such designation, removal and  
13 mitigation, including, but not limited to, (1) department consultation of

14 a licensed arborist prior to the designation and removal or mitigation of  
 15 any such hazardous tree; (2) advance notification to the public of the  
 16 department's hazardous tree removal activities, including, but not  
 17 limited to, signage and publication of information on the Department of  
 18 Energy and Environmental Protection's Internet web site; and (3)  
 19 consideration of replanting and other relevant improvements to offset  
 20 the aesthetic or ecological value provided by any hazardous tree that is  
 21 removed. Such policy shall also include provisions for: (A) The  
 22 maintenance of public safety, (B) ecological and natural resource  
 23 protection, (C) practices for transparency and public engagement in the  
 24 process of such designation, removal and mitigation, (D) effective  
 25 stewardship of department resources, (E) public access to outdoor  
 26 recreation, (F) fire suppression or protection efforts, (G) state park  
 27 maintenance and repairs, (H) decorative pruning, (I) trail maintenance,  
 28 (J) post-storm impact mitigation or clean-up, and (K) removal of  
 29 invasive species. For the purposes of this section, "arborist" has the same  
 30 meaning as provided in section 23-61a of the general statutes.

31 (b) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
 32 implement a tree replanting demonstration project at Housatonic  
 33 Meadows State Park, in consultation with state park or forest advocacy  
 34 groups or organizations.

35 (c) Not later than December 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Energy and  
 36 Environmental Protection shall submit a report, in accordance with  
 37 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of  
 38 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
 39 environment on state park and campground tree replanting strategies  
 40 for removed hazardous trees and any associated funding needs."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Sec. 501	<i>from passage</i>	New section